MY CITY houston
MAPPING APPLICATION ©

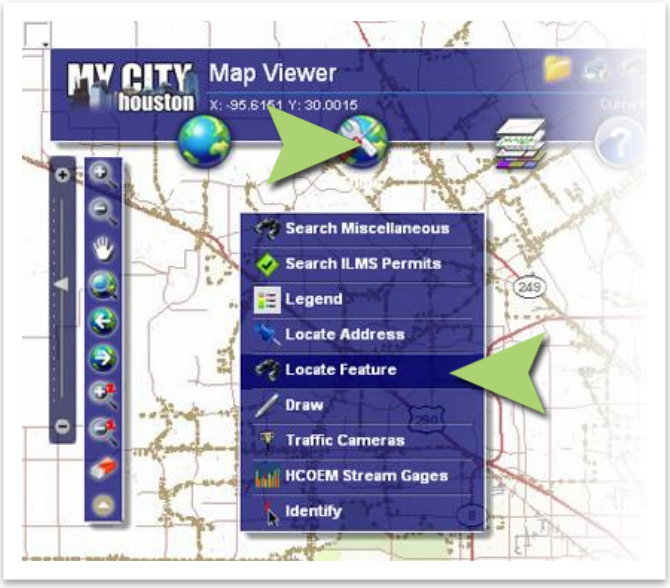
http://mycity.houstontx.gov/public | GIS Helpline **832.393.6555**

Developed and hosted by **Enterprise GIS, Planning and Development Dept., City of Houston**

Using the Locate Feature Tool

At startup on the '**My City Houston**' interactive mapping application, one can find the '**Locate Feature**' tool in its minimized form in the top right portion of your browser window (just below the '**Locate Address**' tool, see below, "**A**").

'**THE LOCATE FEATURE**' tool

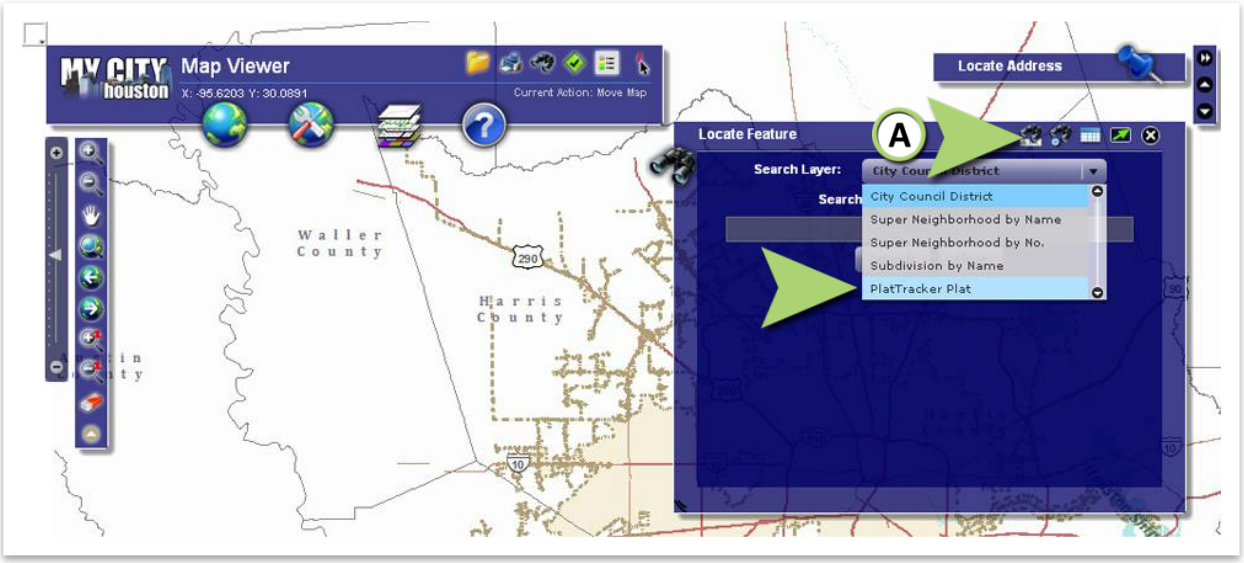


Note: The '**Locate Feature**' tool should show up in the top right portion of your browser window when the application first opens. If the tool is "**closed**", it can be brought back by selecting the '**Locate Feature**' tool from the '**Tools**' menu (see left).

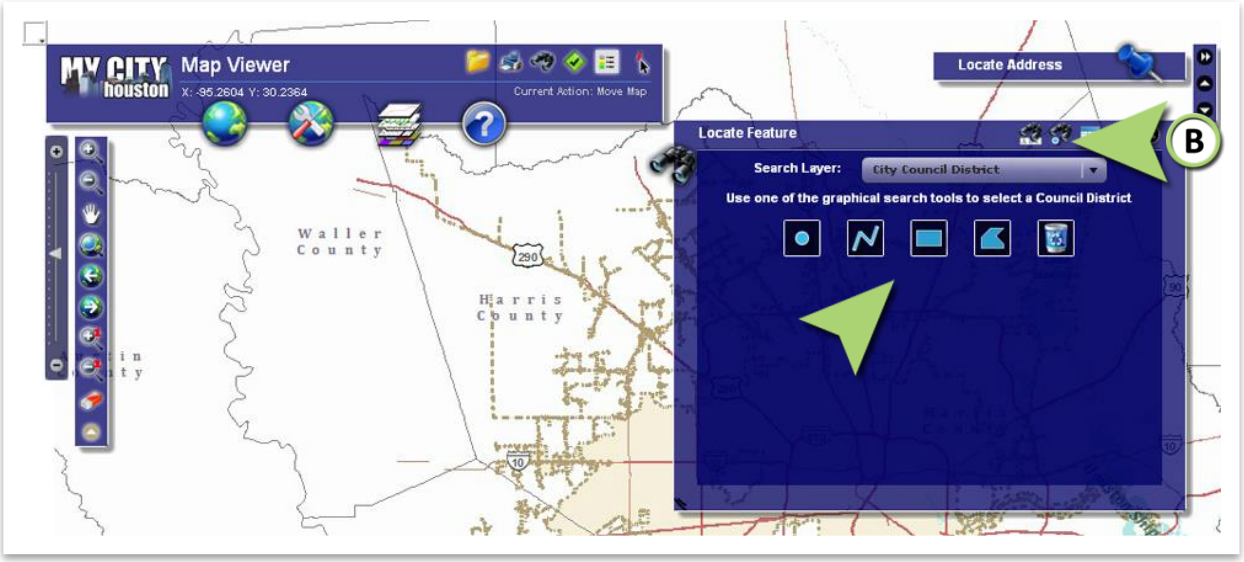
Note: If the tool is "**minimized**" (see below), click on the '**Locate Feature**' icon which will cause the tool to expand.

Click the '**Locate Feature**' icon opens the **Locate Feature window** to search fields.

LOCATE FEATURE: '**Text Search**' tool and '**Graphical Search**' tool.



'**Locate Feature**' tools Search by '**Text**' (see above, "**A**"), and by '**Graphical**' (see below, "**B**").



Locate Feature tools include:

- **Text Search** – by entering a text in the search field box.
- **Graphical Search** – by selecting a point, a line, rectangle, or polygon. And, a tool to "**clear**" the graphical selection.
- **Results** – view the results of the search by text or by graphical.
- **Minimize** – to minimize the window, and bring the panel back to its original position.
- **Close** – to close the entire menu. If the tool is "**closed**", it can be brought back by selecting the '**Locate Feature**' tool from the '**Tools**' menu (see above).

By clicking on one of the first two small icons on the top of the tool window, it is possible to select either a '**Text Search**' or a '**Graphical Search**'. The '**Text Search**' is the *default* search mode.

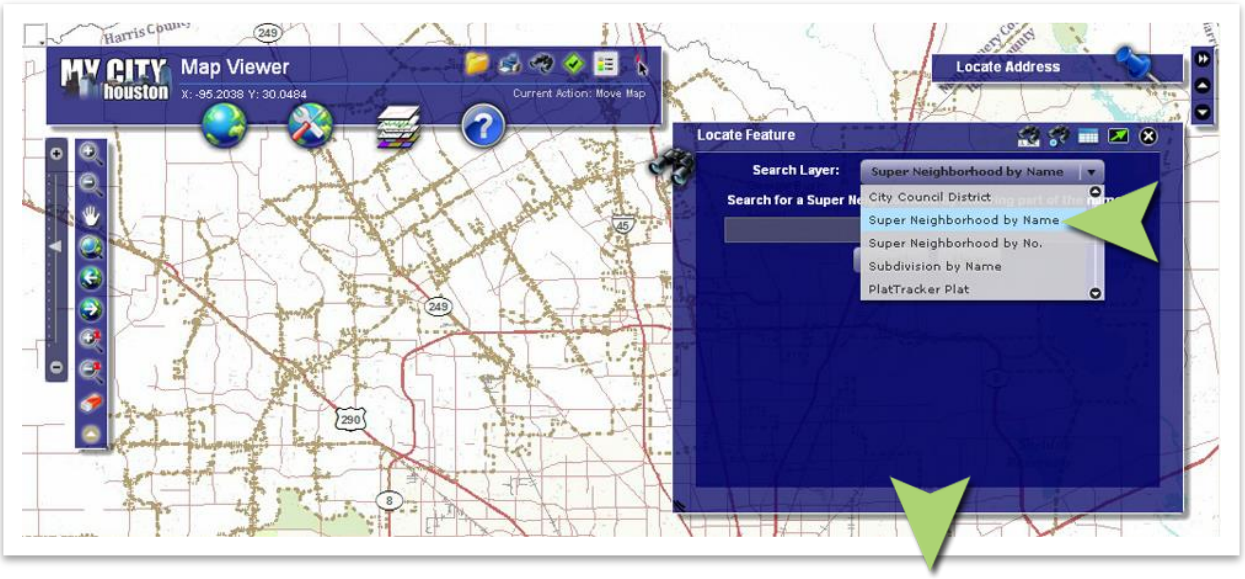
Text Search Tool

If '**Text Search**' is selected, use the **Search Layer** drop down menu list options to select the "**search layer**". Please "**scroll down**" for the wide range of search list options.

The choices are:- City Council District, Super Neighborhood by Name, Super Neighborhood by No., Subdivision by Name, Plat Tracker Plats, KeyMap Page, KeyMap Block, Lambert Tile, GIMS Tile (Public Works uses this), or Zip Code. **Note**: These selections may expand in the future, but not necessarily appear in this documentation.

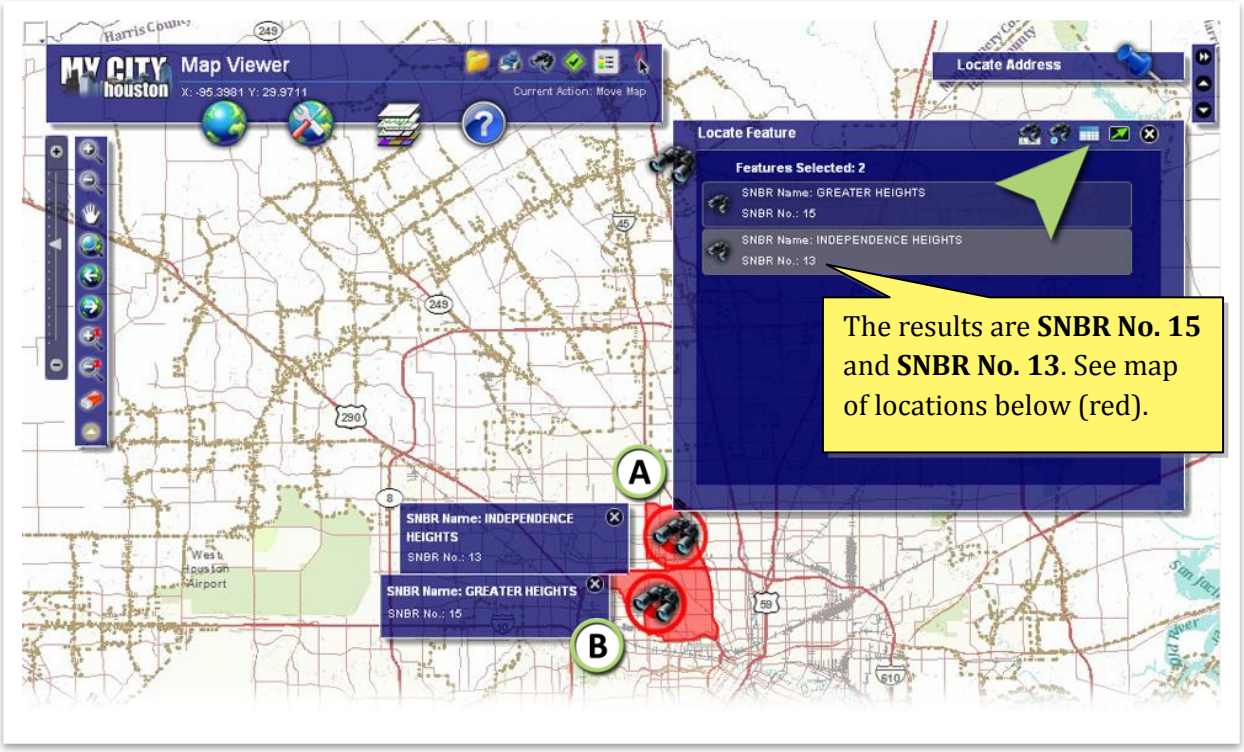
Once the **Search Layer** is selected, enter a string that corresponds to appropriate text to use in the search. Examples are provided for each type.

Note: For all cases except '**Super Neighborhood by Name**', the search is an exact, but case-insensitive search. For example, for '**City Council District**', one enters either an "**A**" or "**a**" to locate that City Council District. For '**Super Neighborhood by Name**', one only needs to enter a word or words appearing the Super Neighborhood name. For example, entering the string "**Heights**" will produce two results as there are two (2) Super Neighborhoods that have the word "**Heights**" in their names. Once the string is entered, click on the '**Search**' button.



The search will initiate and the tool will flip the panel to '**Results**' panel (this panel is indicated on the top right icon panel by the icon). Any results will be listed there, plus the map will show the result feature(s) highlighted in a semi-transparent red color. If one clicks on one of the results listed in the Results Panel, the map will zoom to and highlight that single result.

The two (2) **Heights Super Neighborhoods** are "**Independence Heights**" and "**Greater Heights**", see "**A**" and "**B**" respectively (below). The highlighted features can be cleared by clicking on the '**Clear**' button in the **Text Search** panel, or by clicking on the '**Clear**' button in the **Graphical Search** panel (next icon).



Graphical Search Tool

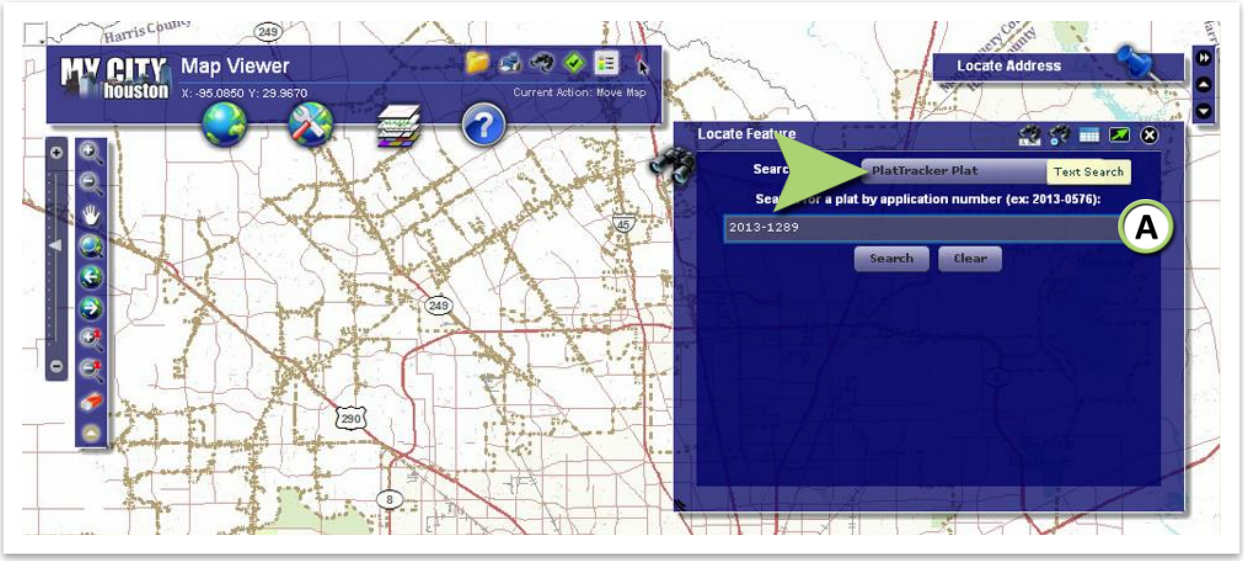
If '**Graphical Search**' is selected, use the **Search Layer** drop down menu list options to select the "**search layer**". Please "**scroll down**" for the wide range of search list options.

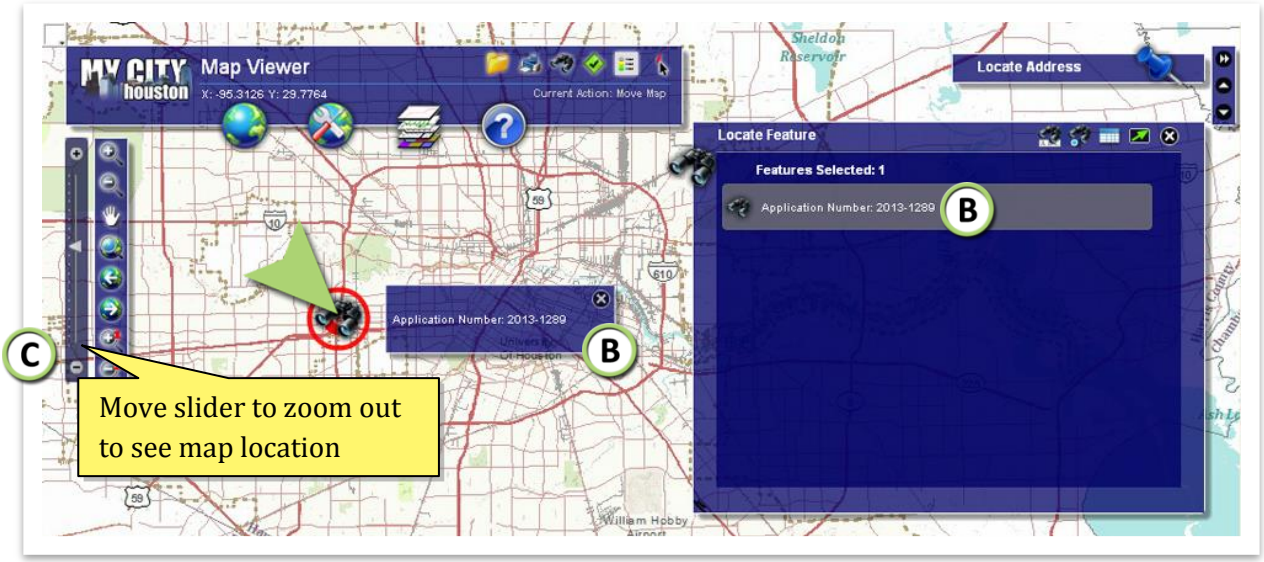
The choices are:- City Council District, Super Neighborhood by Name, Super Neighborhood by No., Subdivision by Name, Plat Tracker Plats, KeyMap Page, KeyMap Block, Lambert Tile, GIMS Tile (Public Works uses this), or Zip Code. **Note**: These selections may expand in the future, but not necessarily appear in this documentation.

Then select one of the '**Graphical Search**' tools to select a feature by clicking on the map (Select by Point) or drawing a feature (Select by Rectangle or Select by Polygon). Once the feature is drawn, any features in the selected **Search Layer** will be selected and highlighted. A list of results will be shown in the '**Results**' panel. Once again, clicking on one of the listed results will cause that single result to be zoomed to and highlighted.

The highlighted features can be cleared by clicking on the '**Clear**' button in the **Text Search** panel, or by clicking on the '**Clear Graphics**' tool in the shortcut menu on the **Main Menu Controller**.

Example: **Search 'Plat Tracker Plats' by Search Text Tool**





A In the '**Text Search**' panel, "**scroll down/arrow down**" for the '**Plat Tracker Plats Data**' list options. Enter an **Application Number**, in the text field area. Click, '**Search**' after entering a number. Example: **2013-1001** (enter an application no., if available.)

B The search will initiate and the tool will flip the panel to the '**Results**' panel (this panel is indicated on the top right icon panel by the icon). Any results will be listed there, plus the map will show the result feature(s) highlighted in a semi-transparent red color. The area represents the **boundaries** and/or **property lines** of the polygon boundary of the Registry Template CAD drawing submitted by the customers (applicants) and civil engineers (who represent land owners, developers, and builders) during the subdivision platting of properties.

C If one clicks on the results listed in the '**Results**' panel, the map will zoom to and highlight the result. Move slider to '**zoom out**' to see map location, if needed.

D The highlighted features can be cleared by clicking on the 'Clear' button in the '**Text Search**' panel, or by clicking on the '**Clear Graphics**' tool in the shortcut menu on the **Main Menu Controller**.

The City's GIS data are ever-changing. The enterprise GIS team has gone to great effort to assure that the data in this application are of high quality and that they will remain as current as possible. This has involved forging agreements between the departments responsible for each dataset, and working out processes for regular update of each dataset.

Locate Feature tools include:

- Text Search – by entering a text look-upon the search field
- Graphical Search – by selecting a point, by line, by rectangle, or by polygon, or to clear the graphical selection
- Results – view the results of the search
- Minimize – to minimize the window
- Close – to close the window
- KeyMap Block
- Lambert Tile
- GIMS Tile
- Zip Code

Search Layer options include:

- City Council District
- Super Neighborhood by Name
- Super Neighborhood by No.
- Subdivision by Name
- Plat Tracker Plat

- KeyMap Page
- KeyMap Block
- Lambert Tile
- GIMS Tile
- Zip Code

Example of Searching Plat Tracker Plat Data

The '**My City Houston**' interactive mapping web site provides the public, customers (applicants), area agencies, land planners and civil engineers (who represent land owners, developers, and builders) an easy way to locate a submitted plat on '**My City Houston**'s map. Plats submitted on '**Plat Tracker**'s plat submittal site (**http://www.HoustonPlatTracker.org**) take part in the subdivision platting of property within Houston's extraterritorial jurisdiction for review and presentation to the **Houston Planning Commission**.

There are three (3) ways to access the '**Plat Tracker Plat Data**' on My City:

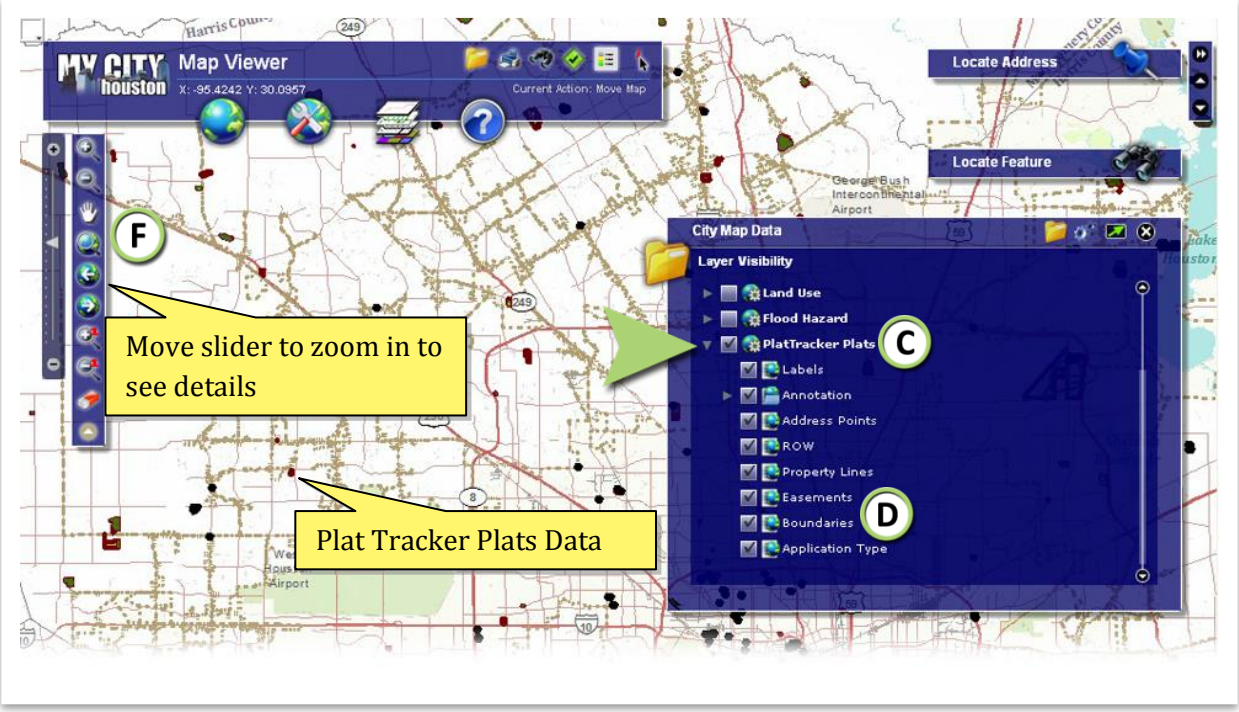
A **Locate Feature** tool - Search by application number. Click the '**Locate Feature**' icon. In the '**Text Search**' panel, "**scroll down/arrow down**" for the '**Plat Tracker Plats Data**' list options. Enter an **Application Number**, in the text field area. Click, '**Search**' after entering a number. Example: **2013-1001** (enter an application no., if available.) For more details, see section '**Using the Locate Feature Tool**' (see above).

B **Map Layers** tool – Locate submitted plats in the Map Layers. Click the **'Map Layers'**, and then, the **'Plat Tracker Plats'** from the drop down menu list options (see "**B**").

C **City Map Data** - Search by layer visibility. From the shortcut menu of the '**Main Menu Controller**', click on the '**City Map Data**' menu icon (see "**C**"). This will open up the '**City Map Data**' window. To view the '**Plat Tracker Plats**' layers, click the '**Plat Tracker Plats**' from the window list (see "**D**"). Remember to select "**arrow down**" to display the '**Plat Tracker Plats Data**'.

Locate Feature, **Map Layers** and **City Map Data**.

City Map Data

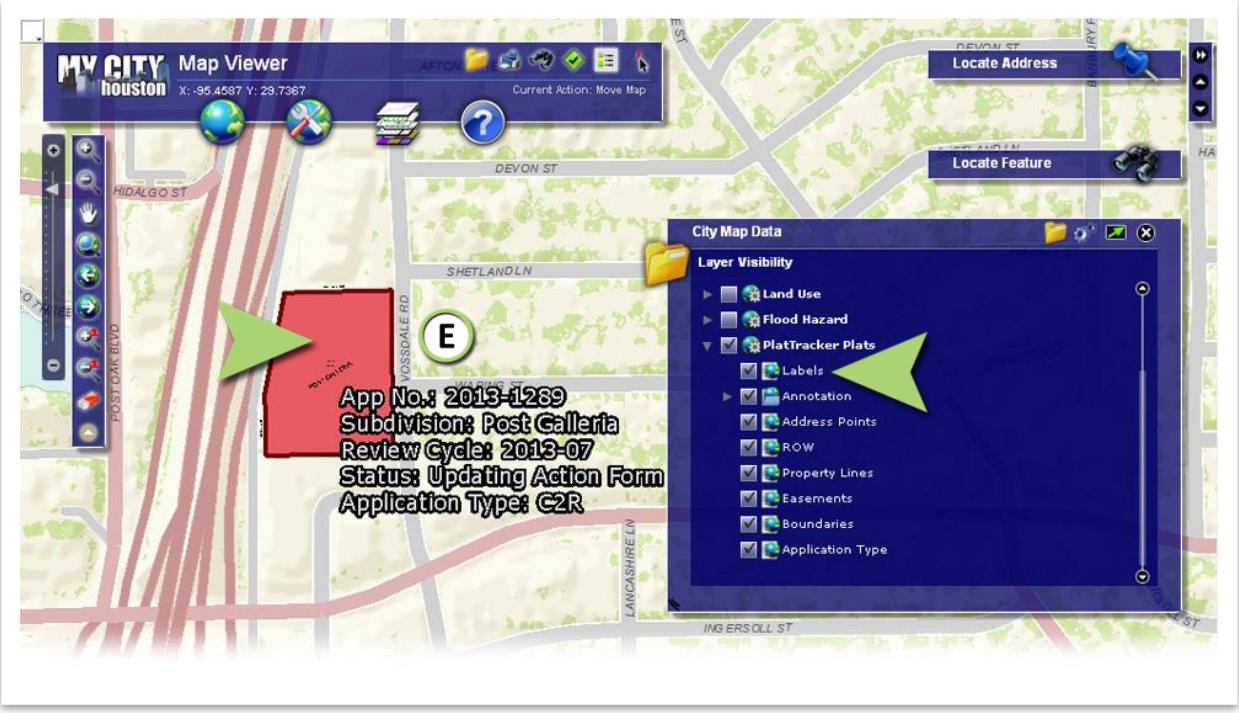


C Select "**arrow down**" to see the '**Plat Tracker Plats Data**'.

D Click individual "**check boxes**" to see the **Data Layers**. Uncheck to "**hide**" data. Example above shows all data layers have being selected.

E Data is represented by "**dots**" at a distance (on small areas) on the My City map, which indeed is an area, represents by the **boundaries** and/or **property lines**. Those are actually the polygon boundary of the Registry Template CAD drawing submitted by the customers (applicants) and civil engineers (who represent land owners, developers, and builders) during the subdivision platting of properties. Zoom in to see details.

F Move slider to zoom "**in**" to see details.



'**Plat Tracker Plats**' **City Map Data** includes:

- Labels
- Annotation
- Address Points
- ROW
- Property Lines
- Easements
- Boundaries
- Application Type

'**Plat Tracker Plats**' labels consist of application number, subdivision name, the Review Cycle, the application status and the type of application of the highlighted polygon boundary.

To learn more about '**Plat Submittal and the Plat Tracker web site**' see the **Plat Tracker Applicant User Guide** document available for download.

GIS Data Layers Groupings

The following groupings are in the **My City Map Viewer Application**, available within the '**Map Layers Menu**'s tool. It will be updated as new datasets from different departments are received on a regular basis. Last update: April 21, 2014.

Map Layers options include:

- Parcel Address Labels
- Parcel Boundary Overlay
- Houston City Limit
- City of Houston ETJ
- City Council Districts
- Super Neighborhoods
- Police Jurisdiction/Facilities
- Fire Jurisdiction/Facilities
- Parks (City of Houston)
- Park Sectors
- Historic Districts (City of Houston)
- Prohibited Yard Parking Applications
- Airport Tiers
- Hurricane Evacuation Zones
- Building Lines
- Lot Size
- PlatTracker Plats

Other Helpful Data Searches

Searching for City Map Data

The '**City Map Data Tool**' is located in the '**Instant Access Tool**' on the **Main Tool Bar**.

City Map Data options include:

City Layers

- Major Thoroughfare Plan (MTFP)
- City of Houston Facilities
- Parks and Recreation
- Libraries
- School Related
- Places of Worship
- Health Related
- Fire Related
- Historic Districts
- Houston Hope Areas
- Houston Metro
- Airport Related
- Environmental Related
- Municipal Courts Incidents
- Planning and Development
- Public Works
- Solid Waste Management
- Addressing
- Lambert Tiles
- Census Tracts (2010)
- Subdivisions
- Zip Codes
- Municipal Utilities Districts (MUDs)
- North Harris County Regional Water Authority
- West Harris County Regional Water Authority
- Downtown Tunnel System
- Pavement Edges

- Building Footprints (1984)
- Houston City Limits
- City of Houston ETJ
- Other Cities
- Harris County Commissioner Precincts
- Montgomery County Commissioner Precincts
- Fort Bend County Commissioner Precincts
- Waller County Commissioner Precincts
- Brazoria County Commissioner Precincts
- Tax Incentive Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ)
- Super Neighborhoods
- Management Districts
- Texas House Districts
- Texas Senate Districts
- US Congressional Districts (113th)
- City Council Districts
- TSARD Contours
- TSARD Base Flood Elevation Cross Sections
- HCDCD Channel Assessment Protocol (CAP) Channels
- HCDCD Watersheds
- Hurricane Evacuation Zones
- 100 year Harris, FEMA/TSARP Flood Zones
- 100 year Other counties, FEMA 2000 Flood Zones
- 500 year Harris, FEMA/TSARP Flood Zones
- Category 1 Storm Surge Model
- Category 2 Storm Surge Model
- Category 3 Storm Surge Model
- Category 4 Storm Surge Model
- Category 5 Storm Surge Model
- H-GAC Counties of Interest
- CMSA Member Counties
- City of Houston OEM Counties of Interest
- Terrain Polygon – All Airports
- Airspace Boundaries – All Airports
- Terrain – EFD
- Terrain - HOU

- Terrain – IAH
- Impervious Surfaces (HCFCD, 2008 4m resolution)
- Current Cycle
- HISD – High School Boundaries
- Bikeways
- Major Activity Centers
- DIDR 2 Community Revitalization Areas (CRA)
- DIDR 2 CRA Outreach
- DIDR 2 CRA Primary
- DIDR 2 CRA Secondary
- DIDR 2 CRA Tertiary

Parcels

- Parcel Address Labels
- Parcels

Fire Department

- Fire Stations
- Fire Districts

HPD-Recent Crime

Public Utilities

- Water (as of 2012)
- Wastewater (as of 2012)
- Storm water (as of 2012)
- Water (Abandoned)
- Wastewater (Abandoned)
- Storm water (Abandoned)
- UM Quadrants
- UMB Cycles
- Lambert Tiles
- GIMS Tiles
- Zip Codes

Land Use

- Land Use (Grouped-Large Scale)
- Land Use (Grouped)

Flood Hazard

- Harris County Floodway
- 100 year Harris, FEMA/TSARP Flood Zones
- 100 year Other counties, FEMA 2000 Flood Zones
- 500 year Harris, FEMA/TSARP Flood Zones

PlatTracker Plats

- Labels
- Annotation
- Address Points
- ROW
- Property Lines
- Easements
- Boundaries
- Application Type

Locate Address Menu

The '**Locate Address Menu Tool**' is located in the '**Locate Address Menu**' tab.

Locate Address Search tool includes:

Jurisdiction Results for the specific location.

- Mayor info
- City Council District info. Example: **District A – K**, if any.
- At-Large Council Members info
- US Congressional District info
- Super Neighborhood. List Super Neighborhood by Name, if any.
- Service Area Type (City Limits): Designated as Full, Limited or ETJ
- County: Includes Fort Bend, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, or Waller or Null (not available).

- County Commissioner Precinct info
- Management District
- City-defined TIRZ area
- Texas House District info
- Texas Senate District info
- US Congressional District info

Solid Waste Schedules for the specific location.

- Automated/Yard Waste pickup area day
- Junk Waste/Tree Waste pickup area schedule
- Recycling pickup area schedule

Police Services for the specific location.

- HPD Division
- HPD Districts
- HPD Beat

Locate Feature Menu

The '**Locate Feature Menu Tool**' is located in the '**Locate Feature Menu**' tab.

Locate Feature tool include:

- City Council Districts
- Super Neighborhood by Name
- Super Neighborhood by Number
- Subdivision by Name
- PlatTracker Plat
- KeyMap Page
- KeyMap Block
- Lambert Tile
- GIMS Tile
- Zip Code

For more information about using '**My City** ', **Locate Address Tool**, **Working with the Interfaces & Menus** and other related documents, it can be downloaded from the '**Help Menu**' or the '**Help**

Tab' on the splash screen. It can also be found on the web at **http://mycity.houstontx.gov/home/documents.html**

Glossary

Address: A designation of the location of a person's residence or workplace, an organization, or a building, consisting of numerical and text elements such as a street number, street name, and city arranged in a particular format.

ArcGIS Online: A Web-based system for sharing, finding, and using maps, layers, and services. ArcGIS Online includes a set of base maps, map layers, and tools published by ESRI for use inside ArcGIS products. The City of Houston ArcGIS Online Map is the ESRI's ArcGIS Online mapping software that helps citizens to understand and visualize data to make decisions based on the best information and analysis with the data provided by City.

Basemap: A map depicting background reference information such as landforms, roads, landmarks, and political boundaries, onto which other thematic information is placed. A basemap is used for locational reference and often includes a geodetic control network as part of its structure.

Chapter 42: The City of Houston's, Code of Ordinances that describes the rules and regulations for subdividing property within the corporate limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

City Limits: Designated as Full or Limited

COHGIS: City of Houston Geographic Information System division that relates in regards to COHGIS and City Limit parcels.

Deed restrictions: Are private covenants between property owners that are recorded with the appropriate county clerk's office that bind all or some property owners in a neighborhood or subdivision to follow a specific set of guidelines. Typically, deed restrictions are designed to limit activities, building layout and design, and / or land uses. A replat does not amend or remove any deed restrictions.

Geocode - The process of finding associated geographic coordinates (often expressed as latitude and longitude) from other geographic data, such as street addresses, or ZIP codes (postal codes). With geographic coordinates the features can be mapped and entered into Geographic Information Systems.

Geographic Information System: GIS integrates hardware, software, and data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. GIS allows

us to view, understand, question, interpret, and visualize data in many ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports, and charts.

Environmental System Research Institute (ESRI): My City mapping application is based on the ESRI Adobe Flex API. ESRI is the standard GIS software that the City of Houston is using. Esri's ArcGIS is a geographic information system (GIS) for working with maps and geographic information. It is used for: creating and using maps; compiling geographic data; analyzing mapped information; sharing and discovering geographic information; using maps and geographic information in a range of applications; and managing geographic information in a database. The system provides an infrastructure for making maps and geographic information available throughout an organization, across a community, and openly on the Web. ArcGIS comes in many products.

Extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ): Represents the area extending beyond Houston's corporate limits approximately five miles into the unincorporated areas of Harris, Fort Bend, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties.

Flex: A set of tools that allows developers to create cross-platform, browser-independent Web applications using a standards-based programming language. Created by Macromedia in 2004 and now developed by Adobe, the Flex family of products includes Flex SDK, Flex Builder, Flex Data Services, and Flex Charting.

Geodatabase: A database or file structure used primarily to store, query, and manipulate spatial data. Geodatabases store geometry, a spatial reference system, attributes, and behavioral rules for data. Various types of geographic datasets can be collected within a geodatabase, including feature classes, attribute tables, raster datasets, network datasets, topologies, and many others.

Key Map: Key map page and location (100A, 100B, etc)

Lambert: Rectangular/regular grid numbering system. Example: 3020, 3021, etc.

Locator (address): A dataset in ArcGIS that stores the address attributes, associated indexes, and rules that define the process for translating nonspatial descriptions of places, such as street addresses, into spatial data that can be displayed as features on a map. An address locator contains a snapshot of the reference data used for geocoding, and parameters for standardizing addresses, searching for match locations, and creating output.

MTFP: Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan. In that plan, the city identifies sections of roadways (either thoroughfares or major collectors) that are in need of expansion, either by lengthening or widening. The plan serves as notice to the public for developing land adjacent to the identified

roads which is produced yearly. In compiling the MTFP, the City listens to developers and neighborhoods about such issues as congestion, mobility and future development plans.

MUD: Municipal Utility District

Subdivision plat: A graphical presentation of a particular surveyed tract of land laying out street rights-of-way, lots and reserves, building setback lines, and easements which must comply with the development requirements of the City of Houston's, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42. These regulations, adopted by City Council, are intended to promote the safe, orderly and healthy development of the City and its extraterritorial jurisdiction. The approved map subsequently may be filed and recorded with the appropriate county clerk's office as the official map of record for this property.

Variance: A deviation from strict compliance with the rules and regulations of Chapter 42. The applicant must document a reasonable hardship.

Enterprise Geographic Information System

Enterprise GIS, City of Houston
Houston Information Technology Services, 611 Walker Street, 5th Floor, Houston, TX 77002
Questions or problem about **My City** can be directed to our GIS Helpline **832.393.6555**
For technical questions, please contact: MyCityHelpDesk@houstontx.gov